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REMARKS

Amendments have been made to the claim language in response to the objections which the Examiner set forth with regard to definiteness. The use of the terms "backside" and "frontside" has been avoided by instead referring to the slope being toward the bottom of the cassette where it is located when received in the receptacle. The use of the word "custom" has been eliminated, and instead it is stated that the cassette is simply received in a receptacle that is integrated with the container. In some instances, it is recited that the receptacle only receives the cassette with the window onto the test strip facing the flat front wall of the container. In addition, the dam (the item represented by reference numeral 260 in Figure 3) is now recited in claim 16 as being so located as to cause pooling of fluid specimen to form in a recessed area within the bottom of the cassette by flowing into the open bottom end thereof and thereby reaching the bottom ends of the test strips that are recessed within the cassette.

With these changes, it is believed that claims 2, 3 and 16, which were indicated in the Office Action as being allowable, should now be allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended generally along the lines of the subject matter of claim 3 so as to recite that the container has a recessed flat front wall, that the cassette is located near the flat front wall and has a window aligned with the test strip, and that the receptacle only receives the cassette with the window facing the flat front wall. Such features are not a part of the prior art of record, and for the reasons the Examiner found claim 3 to be allowable, it is submitted that claim 1 should likewise be allowed.

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Claims 4-8 and 11 and 12 are dependent either directly or indirectly upon claim 3 and should be allowed as well. Claims 19-23 are likewise now dependent either directly or indirectly upon claim 3, and it is submitted that they should be allowed as well.

Claim 16 was objected to only on the basis of indefiniteness, which has been cured. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been amended in a manner so as to more distinctly define the invention, and it is believed that these two claims should likewise now be allowed.

New claim 24 is a further claim written along the lines of claim 3 which was indicated to be allowable. It focuses upon the novel features of the container having a recessed flat front wall and a receptacle for receiving the cassette located near that wall and constructed so as to receive the cassette only in the orientation where the window in the cassette onto the test strip faces the flat front wall for easy viewing. It is submitted that for the reasons that claim 3 was found to be allowable, claim 24 should likewise be allowed.

Claims 25 and 26 are dependent upon claim 24 and thus should likewise be allowable as dependent claims. Claim 26 finds support in original claim 4.

In summary, the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 2, 3 and 16 is acknowledged. By this amendment, the claims have been reduced in number, and all of the claims now presented incorporate at least one of the features which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that this amendment is appropriate under the provisions of Rule 116 and accordingly should be entered. It is believed that a Notice of Allowance should now be issued, and such action is courteously solicited. Should the examiner which any clarification of the language now present, he is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned who pledges to make an honest effort arrive at mutually acceptable changes.

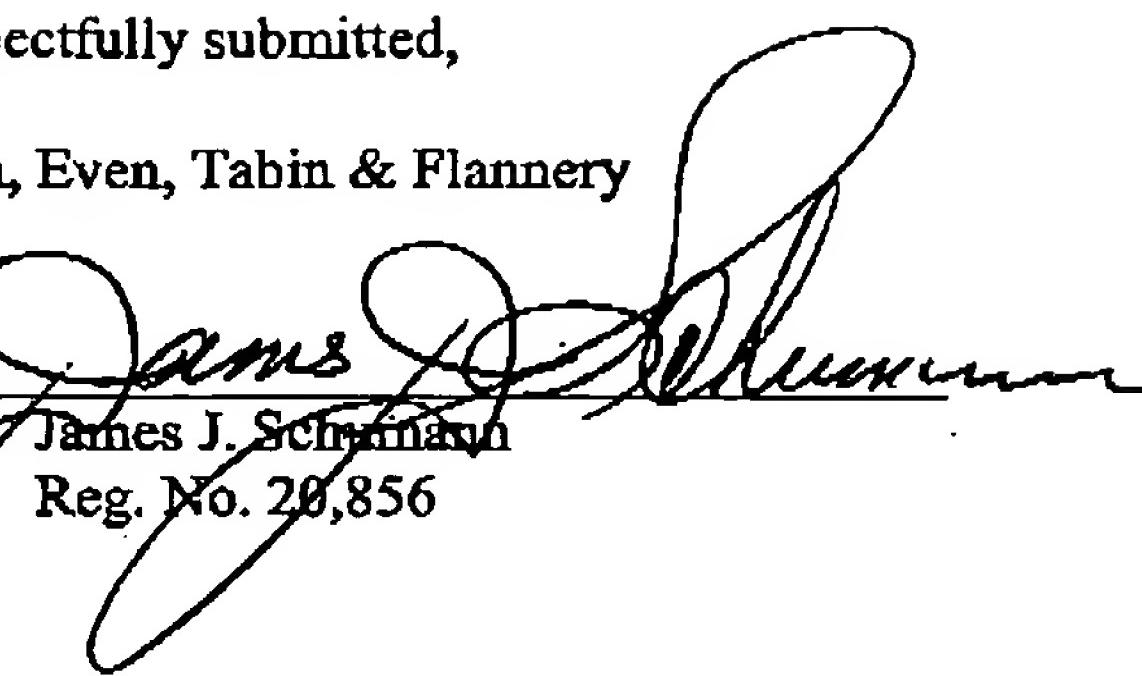
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Respectfully submitted,

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